the Link

Concordia University, Montréal, Québec ❐ Volume 11, Number 10 ❐ Wednesday, October 10, 1990

ANTI POVERTY ISSUE

THIS ISSUE:

Single Mothers on Welfare
A Shelter on Wheels
See page 3

Homeless Conference Preview
Poor People Find a Voice
See page 5

Feature:
Welfare is no Easy Ride
See page 10

COVER DESIGN BY CHARLES ALTMAN

COVER GRAPHIC BY FARZIN FARZANEH

AGENDA

The Agenda is a FREE service to publicize Concordia-related events. Space priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office in room 649 in the Hall Building, or mail it in, indicating AGENDA on the envelope. Deadlines are 5 pm Friday for Tuesday's issue and 5 pm Wednesday for Friday's paper.

Tuesday, October 9

Craft sale, today through the 12th. 10am to 6pm at the Quad, Loyola Campus. Unique handcrafted clothing, art objects, and jewelry from many foreign lands will be available for purchase. A portion of the funds will be donated to Amnesty International. Info:848-7410.

Wednesday, October 10

Homeless Youth: Helping Them Help Themselves:Exploring Alternatives for the 1990's, a conference on homeless youth organized by QPIRG & Homeless Action Research Team. Hall bldg. INFO: 848-7584.

CUSA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:15pm, Fidelity Lounge, Campus Centre, Loyola. All students Welcome.

Thursday, October 11

Eric Wesselow, artist, writer, lecturer; Prix de Rome recipient and former Chair of Québec Society for Education through Art will speak on "I Never Know How or Why: Probings avout Processes of ArtWork." 4pm to 5:30pm. Refreshments available between 3:30pm and 4pm. Location: 7302 Sherbrooke St. W, corner of West Broadway. For info: 848-2280.

Friday, October 12

VIGIL: thousands of people have disappeared in Guatemala. Thousands more have been killed, (100,000 in last 2 decades). Remember the disappeared, come to the vigil at 5pm, corner of St. Catherine & St. Denis. Info: 848-7410.

Speaker: NINETH DE GARCIA, from GRUPO DE APOYO MUTUO in Guatemala will speak on human rights abuses and disappearances . Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, Support committee for the People of Guatemala, and the Concordia Central American Committee. 7:30pm at Mugshots Café, H-651. Free admission. In Spanish and english.

Saturday, October 13

STAND UP FOR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE: March for women's rights. Protest Bill C-43 and the return to back street abortion. 12 noon, Phillips Square.

"Seaway/Capital Regional Conference" 9am—6pm, Bryan bldg., Loyola campus. Groups from Kingston, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec City will be coming to Concordia University for the annual regional conference. Workshops include Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights, AI's mandate in a changing world, the changes in Eastern Europe, and a panel of 4 witnesses to repression will talk about their experiences with human rights abuses. Early registration is $10 and late registration is $15. INFO: Amnesty International Concordia, 848-7410.

GENERAL

Traducteurs sans frontiers, a volunteer translation group, are looking for students in translation for work on the topics of: human rights, development of peace. Traducteurs sans frontiers/ Central American Committee :737-4682 Antonio.

Services for Disabled Students needs faculty, staff and student readers! Do you have a clear reading voice and some time to read texts and/or articles onto tape for personal use of students who are visually impaired and learning disabled? Please call 848-3525.

Concordia Outdoor Club — Rock climbing/hiking trip: Oct.12-14. Mt. Washington, NH. Limited space. for info: 848-3860 or stop by the Victoria Gym's front desk. Ask for Gio or Seana.

Join CUTV ! Become a cameraperson, editor, switcher, director, producer, etc....We need members. If interested, pass by H651-1 or call 848-7403.

The Concordia Central America Committee is seeking new membership to participate in it's 1990-91 activities. Call us at 848-7410 or drop by our offices at 2020 Mackay, 2nd floor.
Le Comité Amérique Centrale de Concordia recrute de nouveaux membres pour participer à ses activités de 1990-91. Appelez-nous au 848-7410 ou visitez-nous au 2020 Mackay, 2e étage.

.Amateur Radio Club Meetings. Every Tuesday 7pm--11pm, at H-644-1. Talk to the world with amateur radio. Classes begin soon.
81.

Politically correct coffee from Nicaragua is now available at the offices of the Central America Committee at 2020 Mackay, 2nd floor. Info 848-7410.
Café "politiquement" correct du Nicaragua disponible au bureau du Comité Amérique Centrale de Concordia,2020 Mackay, 2e étage, renseignements: 848-7410.

The Concordia University Pre-Law Association, for any student considering a career in the legal field. Lectures, data on entrance requirements, will help remove some of the imposition of law school. CUPLA 848-7463.

Allied Jewish Community Service looking for volunteers into Shalom Line , a telephone listening service. Info call Suzanne Herscovitch at 735-3541, ext. 3380.

Legal Information Service-Problems with your landlord? Problems with that contract you signed? Immigration Department giving you a headache?We can help! Info:848-7482, 9am to 5pm,Monday to Friday, at Room CC326, Loyola Campus.

Writing assistance, can improve your writing. Come to H-440 or call 848-3555

Eres Lationamericano y quisieras entregar tu aporte para acabar con la guerra en America Central? Hablas clima de solidaridad? Concordia Central America Committee tiene el espacio oue buscas. Telefonea al 848-7410 o visitanos en el anexop, 2020 mackay,2º piso. Tenemos una biblioteca, cafe, y sobretodo un clima solidario. Bienvenidos!!

The Concordia University Psychology Association (CUPA) invites Psycholgy Students to their meetings,held every Thursday in CUPR's office-2020 Mackay, P Annex, RM 205, 3pm

Concordia Debating Union: Weekly meeting Friday 2pm, call 848-7412.

WOMEN'S LISTINGS

The Concordia Women's Collective is having their weekly meeting this week on Thursdays at 8pm, 2020 Mackay (P-Annex), in the basement.

The Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia will hold weekly meetings, Mondays at 8pm, Simone de Beauvoir Institute Lounge. Bring your ideas and enthusiam! All Lesbians, women, Faculty and staff welcome.

Have you written any papers on lesbian themes? Remember how frustrating it was to find adequate resources? The Lesbian Studies Coalition wants to ease similar frustrations by compiling essays written with a lesbian theme, and making them available to other students for reference. Please drop your papers off at the S.D.B.I. document centre, and leave a message with Lesbian Studies at CUSA (848-7474).

October 9 -- November 1 "Portraits and Figures." An exhibition of portraits and figures by Eliza Griggiths and Julia Waks will be on view at the Concordia Women's Centre 'Art Space.' Women's Centre, 2020 Mackay p-03. All welcome.

To celebrate Coming Out day, the Lesbian Studies Coalition invites you to come share your stories. Prizes, meet beautiful girls! Monday, Oct. 15, 8pm, Simone de Beauvoir Institute Lounge, 2170 Bishop street. Refreshments served.

Feminist Focus Day: CKUT 90.3fm presents 12 hours of feminist programming, on Sun. Oct. 21, 12-24h. Interested in helping out? Weekly meetings Mon 19h at 3480 McTavish, #B15. Info: Andrea, Sarah, or Jessica at 398-6787.

"We Will Not Be Silenced." Collection of poems and works of prose. The Concordia office on the Status of Women is collecting poems, works of prose, etc. in commemoration of the killing of 14 women on december 6, 1989 at the Ecole Polytechnique. Please send your works to Office on the Status of Women, K-103 (2150 Bishop St.). Deadline: Oct. 31. Info: 848-4841.

Interested in becoming a radio personality? Or learning behind-the-scenes tekky stuff? Hersay & Dykes on Mykes welcome new members. For more info. call Voula at 398-6787.

"Hierarchy, Patriarchy, and the Feminization of Power." Lecture by Maria Peluso. 4pm to 5:30pm. Refreshments available between 3:30pm to 4pm. Location: 7302 Sherbrooke St. W., Cn. West Broadway. INFO: 848-2280.

International Women Students: A support group for international and visiting women students. On Oct. 12 &26 at the Women's Centre, 2020 Mackay in the basement. Info:848-7431.

The Faculty of Fine Arts is the home of one of the first and one of the only functioning Permanent Review Committees on the Status of Women at Concordia. This group is in place to respond to the needs of students, staff and faculty. Our meetings are open and we welcome your participation. The Oct. 18th meeting will be held at Loyola. Contact us at 397-1703 for further details.

CLASSIFIED ADS

We do NOT take classifieds by phone. RATES: 20 cents a word for Concordia students, 25 cents per word for non-students and business ads. Deadlines are 5 pm Friday for Tuesday's issue, and 5 pm Wednesday for Friday's issue. Come to room 649 in the Hall Building, to fill out one of our painless forms. HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10-5; Ads MUST be accompanied by payment, or they will not run.

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continued on page 4

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GRAPHIC BY FARZIN FARZANEH

Down and out on welfare

by Eugenia Xenos

She hides fruit in the closet, puts her name on food basket lists at Christmas, and lives on "pins and needles" from cheque to cheque.

She's Lauretta Bessette Morrison, a single mother on welfare.

Why fruit in the closet?

"I just want my children to be like everyone else," said the 31-year-old mother of two. "So I hide the fruit to save it later for their lunches at school. You don't know where to hang your head when other kids make fun of your lunch," Bessette Morrison said.

Bessette Morrison grew up on welfare, and said she remembers what it was like to be "ostracized" because she had the "wrong" clothing, food and living quarters.

"We always lived in very slummy apartments with cockroaches running around. I don't ever want my children to know (that kind of life)," she said.

Bessette Morrison said she tries to hide that she's on welfare because she does not want her children to be social outcasts.

Single mother Rae Hall said society has put an "awful stigma" on people who collect welfare.

"It says that you're a lazy, no-good-bum because you just want to lay around and do nothing. Sure, that's true for a lot of us, but not for all (of us)," Hall said.

She said she is not yet looking for a job because the welfare system is treating her "too damn well."

"They've put me through high school and college, and they'll put me through (any other training program) I want to go through. I don't think people understand how well-off welfare recipients are," she said.

Hall, 36, is raising her five-year-old daughter, but has also reared three other children from two previous marriages.

She pointed out that her welfare payments will be axed this December, when she finishes a five-month federally-sponsored training program.

"They're doing me the biggest favor by cutting me off," she said. "It will give me the incentive I need to leave a city I detest."

Hall said she is fed up with those who say they can't afford to dress their children because she hasn't spent a "penny"on clothing in seven years. She said she relies on churches and Chez Doris, a centre for homeless women, for clothing and food.

Tina, who asked that her last name not be given, said some recipients are afraid to get off welfare. She was on welfare for six years, but just recently got a job that pays $5.50 per hour.

Tina, 26, is supporting her six-year-old son, but said she may now be earning less than she was while on welfare.

She complained that some recipients undergo "slave labor" because they work more than 40 hours a week to have an extra $100 added to their welfare cheques.

"The welfare system helps you, but it also tries to keep you down," Tina said.

Thanksgiving on the streets

A refuge ready for all "Dans la Rue"

by Satwant Kaur

While families gathered around dinner tables Monday night to celebrate Thanksgiving, a group of kids were waiting in the cold at Lafontaine Park for a familiar white camper van. The sign on the van read "Dans la Rue....pour les jeunes."

Inside the warm camper, volunteers and permanent staff prepared coffee, hot dogs and sandwiches, and passed out cigarettes as the "visitors" made themselves comfortable. They also distributed condoms upon request.

The kids didn't know it was Thanksgiving and couldn't recall the last time they celebrated it.

For many of Montreal's street kids, the Dans la Rue camper is one of the few places where they can find food, drinks and a place to sit and chat without too many questions being asked.

Father Emmet Johns, a Roman Catholic priest, began operating this mobile shelter two years ago. Along with four permanent staff and a group of volunteers, the camper makes its rounds of the city four nights a week from 9:30 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.

Johns, commonly known as "Pops", stayed only awhile that night. He was on his way to St. Justine's Hospital with a pregnant 18-year-old girl. "She came to me and started telling me about her pains and how they were coming regularly - every five minutes," Johns said.

The mobile shelter's work has not gone unnoticed. Recently the Montreal Rotary Club donated a brand new camper to replace the older, street-worn one.

But Johns said the new van is only the first step toward improving the living conditions of these kids.

"We hope to raise enough money to open a shelter and later have small apartments or flats, and make them available to young people who want to go back to work or school, or who want treatment for drug addiction," Johns said. "There are very few beds for teenagers in the Montreal area."

Although the 1987 report by the Ville Marie Social Services stated there were 3 967 kids on the street, Johns said the figure is closer to 6 000.

Working in the camper can sometimes be frustrating because it is not a permanent shelter, according to Dave, a permanent staffer who asked that his last name not be printed.

"It's like banging your head on the wall here. We are giving them food and the kids are leaving here and going out to squats.

He also said the kids are forced to hustle in order to survive the street life.

"Most of them have learned how to scam," he said. "If we had a shelter we would be able to have kids inside, where they will have a roof over their heads and food in their tummies and finally we can sit down and ask them what they would like to do - go to school, go to work and help them towards that."

A 19-year-old "visitor", who wished to remain anonymous, said he has had his own apartment for two years but lived on the streets from age 14 to 17.

"I had planned to go to school and the people here helped me get in school. They gave me some numbers and moral support and of course, food," he said.

"The thing about being on the streets is that if you have been there long enough it will beat you down and it gets worse and worse. "Unless you really want to stick it out you will get sucked right in (to the habit of street living). You have to be a scum in order to survive."

Another young man said he appreciates Dans La Rue because "you can be anything, a skinhead, a punk and they don't tell you to go away.

"One of the neatest things is that you don't have to fill out forms. You get to be treated like a human being," he said.

Concordia students over the ledge

by Franco D'Orazio

Two Hingston Hall residents at Loyola campus were fined $50 each two weeks ago for sitting outside on a window ledge.

Michelle Welton, one of the residents fined, said the incident was "completely silly."

Welton said she asked her friend Allison Johnson to join her on a ledge overlooking the dormitory's atrium because it was a beautiful night out. The two climbed out a window on the second floor of their residence by removing a screen that had already been broken.

"We weren't making any noise or drinking," Welton said. "We were about to sit down when a hall monitor discovered us."

The monitor told them the area was out of bounds, Johnson said. "But there wasn't any indication of it being out of bounds. We only found that out later (that day)," she said. "They must be pretty desperate (for money)."

Officials at Hingston Hall declined to comment on the matter, but Jenn McGinn, a Resident Assistant at the Hall, said the decision to fine the pair was made the same day by her superior, Residence Director Julia Denker.

"I don't think it was smart," McGinn said. "Even though they were on the second floor, they could have been hurt and we could have been liable."

According to the two residents, Denker mailed them a letter threatening to bring them before the Code of Conduct Board if they did not pay their fines within a month or if they committed another "dangerous activity".

"Where do we get the fifty dollars?" Welton asked. "That's the equivalent of two weeks' worth of food."

Johnson and Welton both admitted they wouldn't starve, but they also vowed not to pay the fines because a RA whom they would not identify told them "sitting on a ledge is legal."

Welton said she would like to appear before the Code of Conduct Board, though she wasn't certain exactly what it was.

"If they (the rules) aren't posted, how can they give you a fine?" she asked. "It sounds ridiculous to us."

Classifieds continued from page 2

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continued on page 6

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Tough times in Nicaragua

by Megan McMillan

Nicaragua's new government has turned the Central American state into a puppet dancing to the tune of foreign interests, according to a former member of the Nicaraguan National Assembly.

"Once again foreign business has infiltrated Nicaragua," Dorotea Wilson said at a speech given at Concordia last Thursday.

"American policy continues to strangle the people and the government despite claims that this new government is a democratic one."

Wilson was one of 26 female deputies in the 61-member Assembly and is the founder of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua's Multi-Ethnic Women's Movement..

Wilson left office with the defeat of the Sandinista administration in a general election held last Feb. 25. She spoke at the Hall Building as part of a five-week tour around Québec and the Maritimes sponsored by Tools for Peace, a Canadian organization for aid and development to Nicaragua.

She said the election victory of the Sandinistas' major political rival, the U.N.O., was really bought because each vote cost a citizen $10.

Wilson also said people saw voting for the U.N.O. as a means to end the country's civil war and the draft.

About 40 000 people were killed in this country of just 3.6 million inhabitants, as the Sandinistas resisted onslaughts by the U.S.-backed Contra rebels. The Contras support the U.N.O.

Wilson said the International Monetary Fund's imposed embargoes have crippled the economy and brought about a 2000 per cent rate of inflation. She said the minimum wage in Nicaragua is the equivalent of $50 U.S. per month.

"This is insufficient to provide a family with the basic neccessities of rice, beans, olives, and soap, which cost $116 U.S. per month," Wilson said. "Now many who voted for the U.N.O. six months ago regret it."

Wilson criticized current president Violeta Chamorro for allowing the reprivatization of businesses; the handover of social services like public health care and education to the private sector; and attempts by former landowners to confiscate peasants' land.

"We do not wish to relinquish the gains which the revolution won," she said.

The revolution brought about major changes for Nicaraguans, including income security, welfare, war disability and old age pensions, which have lost their grants and funding."

Wilson described Chamorro as being "manipulated by the Americans," adding, "she does not represent herself or the ideas of women. She is with her own group of women from the upper class, like wives of ambassadors and cabinet ministers. They play sports and they don't have time for anything else."

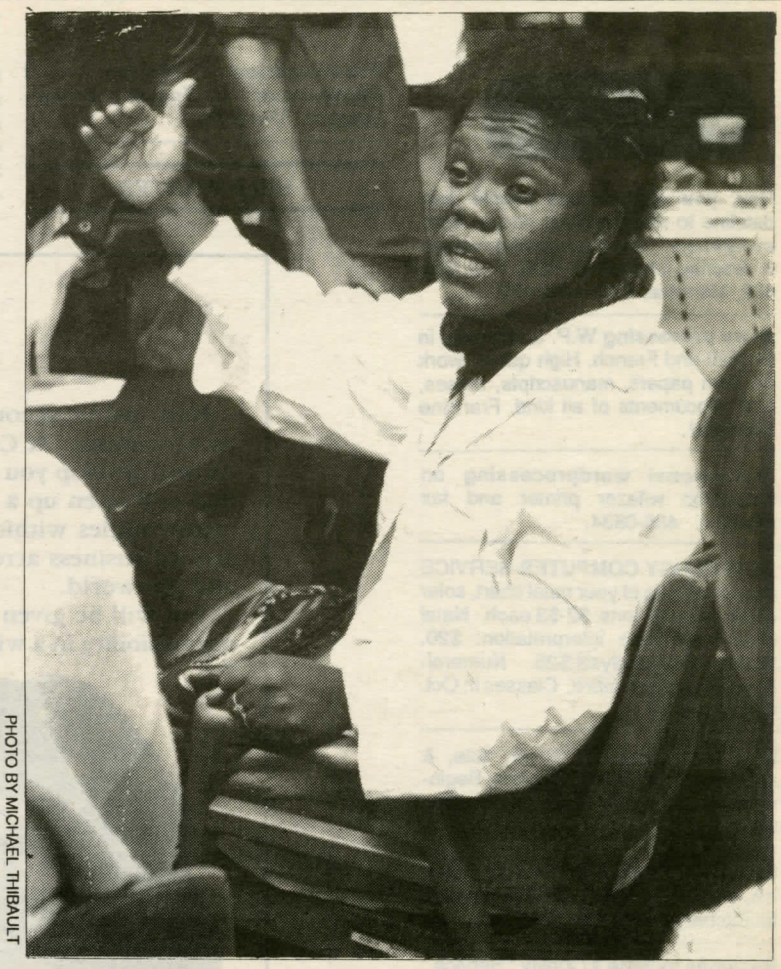

PHOTO BY MICHAEL THIBAULT

Dorotea Wilson spoke to Concordia students last Thursday.

Judicial Board member Sohan ousted by decree

by Franco D'Orazio

A double-edged loophole has enabled CUSA co-president Stuart Letovsky both to keep his job and eliminate a political opponent.

Yesterday the ratification of Chandra Sohan's appointment to the CUSA Judicial Board for a second term was annulled.

Sohan served as chair of the Judicial Board last year and was reappointed to the board last May.

The Judicial Board, CUSA's equivalent of the Supreme Court, concluded in a letter to Sohan and to Letovsky that "....the appointment of Chandra Sohan to the Judicial Board for the 1990-91 term was passed at the (September 25th) meeting of the CUSA Board of Directors (BoD) using procedures that were not in accordance with the by-laws set out in the CUSA Constitution, specifically Article 5.2.2."

The Judicial Board's decision was the result of a constitutional challenge issued by Letovsky last week. He questioned the validity of the ratification of Sohan's appointment on the grounds that the BoD did not have the required number of sitting directors (30) at the meeting.

"We're simply following what the constitution (dictates)," said Kerry Schacter, a member of the Judicial Board. "We're hoping Chandra will return (because) he's definitely an asset to the Judicial Board."

But Sohan would not say whether he would return to the Board.

"At this point I don't know." Sohan said. "There are other things I want (to do), but I'd rather not disclose them right now."

Sohan also accused Letovsky of trying to get rid of him, saying this attempt is the latest battle in a long history of animosity between them.

"He used that same article to question my legitimacy. But why only my ratification? He could have questioned anything at that meeting, but he singled me out."

Letovsky dismissed the allegation.

"That's ridiculous," he said, adding it would be futile to scrutinize every discrepancy in the minutes of CUSA's BoD meetings.

But he did say he was glad to get rid of Sohan. Letovsky said the former Judicial Board chairman had biases against some members of CUSA's Board of Directors.

"I'm confident that CUSA as a whole will be able to function better because (it won't have to deal with partiality)," Letovsky said.

There is reason to believe Letovsky had other reasons for removing Sohan.

In his letter to the Judicial Board challenging the ratification of Sohan's appointment, there is no clear reference to the former Judicial Board official.

The letter begins: "After CUSA sought legal advice, it was determined that CUSA has not been operating in accordance its by-laws, particularly Article 5.2.2."

The letter continues: "I am now formally requesting, in view of the legal advice received, the motion (ratifying Sohan's appointment) be rendered null and void, effective immediately."

Letovsky received this advice from CUSA's lawyers last Wednesday morning, before the CUSA BoD meeting that evening, when it was expected the board would hear calls for Letovsky's impeachment.

A motion to impeach the co-president would probably have been deemed unconstitutional on the same grounds Letovsky demanded Sohan's dismissal. Letovsky's letter to the Judicial Board was dated the next day.

But when CUSA Director Hernani Farias motioned to amend Article 5.2.2., Letovsky and co-president Tammy Powell voted against the motion, killing it altogether, as it did not receive enough votes as set out in CUSA's constitution.

Two thirds of the BoD are required to amend an article. The current BoD consists of 19 members, but the total number present that night was 13—or two thirds. Thus a unanimous vote was needed to pass the motion.

Letovsky said although he voted against the amendment, he was not certain what significance would be added to the article had it been amended.

But in a CIRL Radio interview which aired last week, Letovsky said "changing that article would easily enable them (the BoD) to get rid of me if they chose to."

Last week Schacter said the Judicial Board would conduct a campaign to fill the empty seats on the BoD, a procedure that would take at least six weeks. Letovsky said he had that much time to plan his strategy to keep his job. When asked why he wrote the letter to the Judicial Board, the co-president refused comment.

Conference on homeless youth begins today

by Sylvie D. Nelson

Concordia's branch of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (Q-PIRG) is sponsoring a day-long conference today to raise public awareness of the growing number of homeless youths in Montreal.

Q-PIRG member Michael Gibson said the conference's aim is also to unite various community groups that help the homeless youth cope with life on the streets.

"Right now, the different community groups, such as Dans La Rue, Sun Youth and the Old Brewery Mission, work independently from each other," he said. Gibson is also a member of the Homeless Action Research Team (HART), formed last spring to address the issue of homeless youth.

The conference includes workshops on Survival Skills, Shelter and Housing and Demystifying Street Life.

Quebec Court Judge Andrée Ruffo is the keynote speaker.

On two occasions, Ruffo sent youngsters on trial to the then-Health and Social Minister Therese Lavoie-Roux's office because her only alternative was to send the youths to a detention center when it would have been more appropriate to send them to a youth group home.

The Quebec Judicial Council disciplinary committee reprimanded Judge Ruffo last September for giving Chatelaine magazine an interview in which she mentioned cases still pending, and for violating the judge's code of ethics four times between 1986 and 1987.

Gibson said a majority of homeless youths take to the streets because their parents physically, sexually or psychologically abuse them at home.

"A study done in 1987 by Dr. Mark-David Janus, a researcher in the field-issue of (especially homeless youth), of the Covenant House, a center for homeless kids in Toronto, found that 90 per cent of the youngsters using the (Convenant House's) facilities were either physically or sexually abused," he said.

Margaret Wiltshire, administrator of Dans La Rue, said Quebec doesn't have emergency shelters mainly because of the Youth Protection Act.

"The Youth Protection Act basically states that teenagers under the age of 18 should either be at home or in an institution," Wiltshire said.

Dans La Rue is a non-profit organization offering food, clothing and social assistance to street kids.

Wiltshire added that it is almost impossible to know the number of street kids because most don't want to be found or counted.

A 1987 survey by Ville-Marie Social Services estimated the number of homeless youths that year at 3967.

Wiltshire said street kids are savvy because they are forced to develop acute survival skills.

"It is incredible to see the strategies they will come up with in order to survive," she said. "They live in abandoned buildings for months without anyone finding them, they hunt for food behind restaurants and they are very good at telling their story when panhandling."

Classifieds continued from page 4

Hey, you open-minded people, join dateline to meet exciting people from everywhere. Send stamped envelope & describe interests to NDG, P.O. Box 402, Montréal, P.Q., H4A 3P7.

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Guitar Teacher required, part-time, bilingual. 363-6771 - 626-8194.

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continued on page 8

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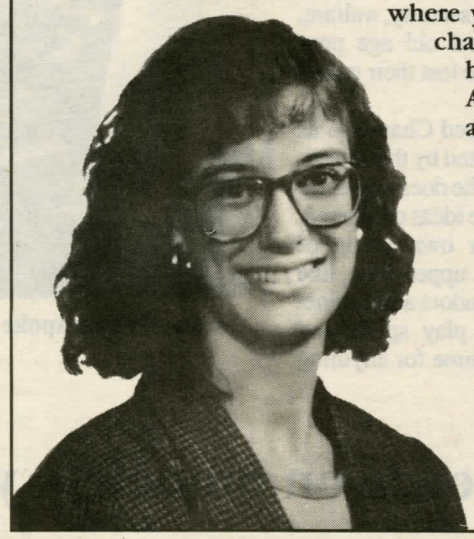

Debbie Donelle
B. Comm., 1991

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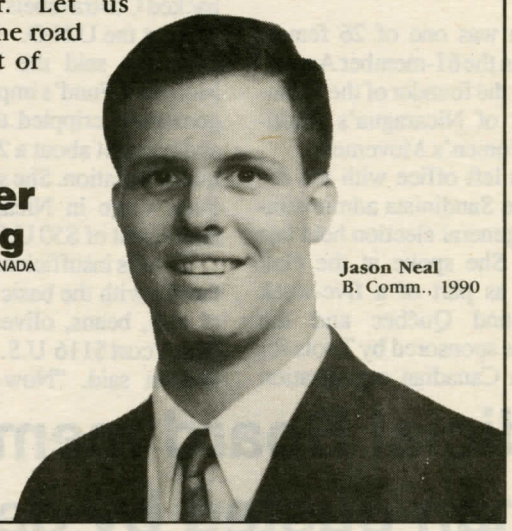

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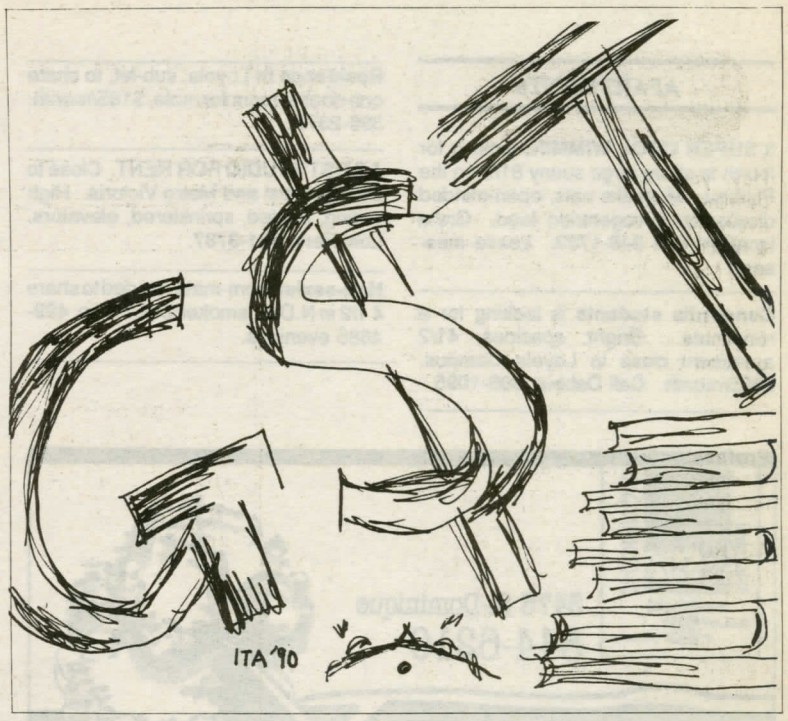
Café au lait (bol) 1.75
Café Viennois 1.75

* Taxe en sus

GST may cost students up to $725 a year



OTTAWA (CUP) -- Canadian students may be shelling out anywhere between $340 and $725 more next year because of the Goods and Services Tax, according to a recent study by the Ontario Federation of Students.

Although the federal government claims a tax credit will help protect those with limited incomes from the brunt of the GST, student leaders contend the tax will still hit students.

The GST will hurt students when it comes to paying for textbooks, clothing, electricity, restaurant and cafeteria meals, transportation and furniture. Rent will not be taxed, although critics say students can expect increases from landlords offsetting their higher operating expenses.

Tuition will not be taxed.

Some relief is available through the GST credit payments -- of between $190 and $290 per year -- to those with low incomes.

Typical college and university students who are over 19-years-old qualify for the basic $190 credit if their 1989 net income was less than $6,066. The credit rises by $100 if income was at least $11,066. Net income includes grants, but not loans.

A recent government pamphlet assures students that they will be better off after the GST is implemented, claiming that students and other lower- to middle-income Canadians will pay less taxes under the new law:

"Although some items presently untaxed will be subject to the GST -- like textbooks, for example -- after receiving the credit, most students will be better off under the GST than they are under the present federal tax system."

But Canadian Federation of Students researcher Sylvia Sioufi scoffs at the government's prediction.

She said the GST and its tax credit don't take into account the low incomes of students, whose spending habits are different from others with similar incomes.

"The government assumes that if you don't have a lot of money, you won't be spending much and (so) you won't need the credit."

"But students on a limited income still have to buy books, photocopies, student society fees," she said. "So even though many students have low incomes, they still have high consumption."

She said the credit will not cover the extra amount students will be spending because of the GST. And, she noted, the credit will only be partially indexed to inflation.

For its part, the GST information office is encouraging students to take advantage of the tax credit, which is paid in quarterly installments.

"On the basis of our calculations on what students spend, the GST will cost about $200 to the average students," said David Bassett of the GSToffice.

"The numbers the government put together are accurate. Obviously nobody from a group is going to say our figures are right. They're going to say the GST will cost them more."

Bassett added that the government will periodically review the tax credit system, although there are no plans to increase indexing to bring it in line with inflation.

"When you're massively in debt, locking into automatic increases endangers your ability to pay in the future," he said. "If the money is there in the future, well then maybe there will be an increase in that

Bassett said the government is trying to encourage students who didn't include the GST credit form with their 1989 income tax return, to do so before the end of October. The first credit cheques go out in December, but those who miss the deadline will receive the first credit later, Bassett said.

The GST credit form is available at post offices and taxation offices.

Although universities and colleges qualify for a 67 per cent rebate -- meaning they will effectively only pay a 2.3 per cent GST -- Sioufi said institutions will still have to spend more because of the GST.

And, Sioufi said, students are eventually going to end up paying for it -- through hikes in tuition and incidental fees.

Some institutions may be severely penalized by the GST. Those with faculties of medicine and engineering will be particularly hard-hit, she said, because they have high overhead costs and must spend more on equipment and supplies.

"Budgets are already tight all over," Sioufi said. "Universities are cutting back on things like libraries and research. The GST is obviously going to have a further effect on the quality of education."

At a rate of seven per cent, the GST will apply to a broad range of goods and services. The tax, set to come into effect Jan. 1, will replace the 13.5 per cent federal sales tax, which is now charged on a narrower range of manufactured goods.

Student life, welfare, single parenthood: a triple whammy

by Tyrone Newhook

Single-parent students on welfare are forced to choose between their thirst for knowledge and their hunger for food, thanks to a government program that seems to ignore reality.

The provincial government offers welfare recipients a "Post-secondary Back-to-School Program for Heads of Single Families."The program gives single-parent welfare recipients a chance to pursue a higher level of education.

Not everyone agrees. Anita DeMeo, a Concordia leisure studies student and single mother, said it is financially impossible to complete a post-secondary education under those circumstances.

"They give you a certain amount (of money) but they don't give you enough to really help you", DeMeo said. She has been on welfare ten years.

Martin Girard, an agent of Employabilité, the body overseeing the program, said it is offered only to single parents who have been on welfare for the past two years.

However, the government only provides funding for four semesters. Students must then apply, with a welfare agent's assistance, for a loan or bursary to continue courses.

Girard said the government also pays for tuition fees, books, daycare, relocation expenses, lunch and bus fare.

"I think it's a really good program and many people have found jobs in their field (after completing school)," Girard said.

DeMeo feels the amount of money allotted for each expense is not "realistic" for an individual's needs. She said she was given only $200 to move with her three children and all their belongings to Montreal from the Gaspésie.

She said she must buy her books with money from her meager welfare cheque. She is then entitled to a reimbursement, to be paid out a week later. Only $40 per month is added to her cheque to purchase a bus pass and her lunches.

"It's absolutely crazy, there's no way you can do it," she said. "They don't see it from a human perspective."

Girard said he cannot solve problems like DeMeo's.

"I'm not the person who makes the law," he said.

DeMeo said the program's shortcomings are forcing her to visit foodbanks at least once a month because she cannot afford to buy enough food for herself and her children. "They end up eating pasta for a week," she said.

"It's affecting my performance and my kid's performance (at school)," she said. "Because I can't concentrate, it takes a lot out of me. I'm really worried about failing."

The Poor People's Press: speaking for themselve

Poverty finds a voice

by Lucy Niro

There's one special-interest magazine you can't find at local newsstands.

Philip Amsel, co-editor of the Poor People's Press, said the magazine is a forum for poor people to share their experiences.

"It's an authentic document for poor people because (they) organized it and run it, not a social worker who gets paid $25 000 a year," Amsel said. "All our staff and most of our contributors are on welfare."

Amsel said the magazine does not have a constitution, but its mandate is to publish poems, comments, letters, and literary pieces dealing with poverty and welfare.

The magazine, which is published sporadically and usually has a circulation of 800, is staffed by co-editors Amsel and Patrick O'Neill, and production manager Irene Lee.

Amsel said he and O'Neill have been editors since the summer as well as communications officers with anti-poverty groups in Verdun and Notre-Dame-de-Grace (NDG), respectively.

Amsel, a writer-poet who has been on welfare since last June, said although the three-year-old magazine usually operates out of the NDG anti-poverty group office at 6715 Sherbrooke St. W., it's now being laid out at Lee's home.

Le e said the magazine is produced on three donated Macintosh computers at the NDG anti-poverty group office that are "from a past generation but still useful."

According to Marcus Jeffers, a worker at the NDG anti-poverty office, the computers were donated second-hand by a part-time mathematics teacher and researcher at Concordia named Leslie Lee.

Irene Lee said after next issue, scheduled to come out either at the end of this month or the beginning of next, problems with computer technology will be "up in the air".

But Amsel said he hopes to apply for provincial government grants to upgrade the equipment and software, so as to produce "decent copy".

Both anti-poverty groups fund the magazine through their provincial government grants, Amsel said.

"The (NDG and Verdun) groups are on a welfare grant from the provincial government; they get $100 for every person in their group," he said.

Amsel said the magazine earns nearly $700 per issue, including advertising revenue.

"We had five or six ads in our last (July) issue," he said. "We think people are happy putting ads in our magazine. A dépanneur woman (benefits from our ads) because she sells cheap things (affordable to welfare recipients) and cashes welfare cheques."

He said one-quarter of the magazine's budget is earmarked for computer software and the rest is for printing expenses.

Amsel said the magazine can be picked up at the NDG anti-poverty office, and the staff is now aiming to publish issues on a quarterly basis.

The publishers agree their work is rewarding.

"The Poor People's Press is like a few kids in a sand pile building sand castles, Lee said. "We're having fun and that's all we do, but at least we're doing something."

Amsel said poetry, literary submissions, commentary, and letters are welcome at the NDG anti-poverty office, provided they conform to the magazine's standards barring any material that is "sexist, racist, or homophobic."

APARTMENTS

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Residence in Loyola: sub-let, to share one double room for male, $185/month. 396-2377.

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Non-sexist room-mate needed to share 4 1/2 in N.D.G. smoker O.K. Philip, 489-4685 evenings.

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FOR SALE

Projector & camera for sale, Bell & Howell, great condition. Negotiable price. 345-0191.

GENERAL

Trip to Cuba, a group has organized a trip to Cuba at Christmas. 2 weeks, airfare, hotel, 2 meals a day, for $1130. Deadline: October 15, 931-3229.

THE BIG BANG!!! Concept Montréal's science fiction and fantasy convention. Saturday, Oct.13, from 8:30am. Admission: $12.00. Guests: Barry B Longyear, Chester Brown, Bernie Mireault. INFO: 453:9455.

If your pleasure is reading... You are invited to join a literary discussion group. For more information regarding a ten week course in english Literature. Phone 626-6451.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST: a woman's silver i.d. bracelet. If found, please call "Cathy" at 494-2871. Will reward generously.

Lost in the lobby of Sir George, black binder with lots of math, economics, and political science notes. Call Sylvie at 488-3117.

Lost on Monday, Oct.1, 1 gold Italian Herringbone bracelet somewhere between Lincoln St. and the Hall building, or possibly the shuttle bus. If found, please call Keiko, 933-1922. REWARD.

Textbook found in caf (7th floor, hall building.) on Friday Sept. 21st at 14:30. See Sonia in H1257 and describe.

Found: a watch on Belmore Ave. (near Loyola) on Sept 17. Call 481-5079. (after 10pm).

LOST! Silver bracelet (linked, large) on Fri. Sept.21, at Hall bdlg.or Guy metro or between.. My life depends on getting it back! Reward. Call Robin at 932-0175.

Help Keep your life in order for $1.00. Get a pocket calendar at either Dean of Students Office or the info desk.

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- Transfer from existing National Trust accounts is not valid

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$25 TRUST NATIONAL $25

$50 $50

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- Open a Total Money Market Account for $10,000. or more and we'll add $50,00 to your initial investment
- GIC's must remain open a minimum of one year to receive bonus interest
- Total Money Market Account must stay open 90 days to receive $50.00
- Personal retail deposits only
- Transfer from existing National Trust accounts is not valid

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$50 TRUST NATIONAL $50

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DEPOSIT BOX
- Open a Total Chequing Account and receive a FREE safety deposit box till January 1st, 1992.
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1350 Sherbrooke St. (corner Crescent) 281-1570
2000 Mcgill College Ave. 842-2001

Listings

In response to the escalating and disturbing problem of destitution, several citizen action groups, religious organizations, and social justice groups have undertaken the task of alleviating some of the difficulty of life below the poverty line.

The following is just a sampling of the services available to those in need. It should be noted that certain listings cater to specific clientele. Some also require specific documents and/or references from a social worker to be presented prior to reception of services. For information on specifics, please call.

Food Depositories

Head and Hands
2304 Old Orchard,NDG. 481-0277.
A small emergency food pantry of canned goods only. Accepts donations.
NDG Food Depot
Corner of Cote St-Antoine and Old Orchard. 483-4680
(Mon,Wed, Fri 11h to 13h)
Maison du Partage d'Youville
2325 Centre. 935-9846
Canned food and bread distributed Wed & Fri 9h30-11h30.
Project St.Charles/Maison de Portage
2365 Centre
Distributes food upon presentationof a welfare card on Tues. and Fri. 11h30 to 14h30.

Cafeteria Food Service

Multi-Caf
3732 de Courtrai. 733-0554
Multi-Caf serves people only from the Cote-des-Neiges/Snowdon (need proof of residence). Lunch is served from 12h to 13h and there is a nominal fee: Adults $1, children $0.50. There is a ramp available for disabled persons.
La Mission St-Michel
37 President Kennedy. 768-4774
This 200 capacity residence caters to the young homeless ages 18 - 29. Applicants must come in for an interview . Provides information on jobs. Cafeteria drop-in, Mon-Fri 8h-13h, coffee at 8h and soup at 11h.
Welcome Hall Mission
1490 St.Antoine. 935-6395
Cafeteria no charge with a chapel service at 20h. Also, accomodates up to 20, please come before midnight. Men only no children).
Maison Benedict Labre
305 Young Ave. 937-5973
Cafeteria no charge: tea Tues-Thurs 13h30 15h30, meals Sat-Mon noon-13h call first. Accessibleto disabled persons. No children. Also provides men's clothing.
Acceuil Bonneau
427 de la Commune E. 845-3906
Cafeteria no charge, Mon-Fri 8h-16h No children and handicap accessible, call first. Accepts donations.
Robert Campbell Memorial Church
2225 Regent St. 489-2567
Cafeteria primarily caters to seniors but it is open to the general public on Thurs 12h30 with a $3 fee. Handicap accessible. Also operates a meals on wheels service on referrals Tues&Thurs.
Resto Pop 3532 Adam. 521-4089
This cafeteria is opened from Mon-Fri. Dinner is served from 12h to 13h and supper is from 16h45-18h30. Pregnant women and children under 6 eat for $1 and everyone else eats for $2.
Sun Youth
4251 St Urbain. 842-6822
Mon-Fri 10h-17h Needs letter form social worker or community organization.

Resource and Action Groups

Coalition for the Right of Welfare Recipients 866-9941
This organiztion provides a legal clinic daily 9h-17h and appointments with lawyers can be arranged for Tues. & Thurs.
Provides accomodations for women and also has a second hand clothing store ($1 per item).

St. Columbia House
2365 Grand Trunk. 932-6202
Meetings for the Welfare Rights Group and the 'Point & Print' journal are held here. They provide an alternative school for children 3-4 years and a French Program for elementary school students. A food service for the elderly is also available every week on Mondays. Can food and clothing are also distributed.

N.D.G. Anti-Poverty Group
489-3548
They are cheifly a welfare advocacy group who also act as a referral service. In an effort to raise awareness, they publish a newspaper and broadcast on CKUT every Wed. night at 19h30.

Project Genesis
5940 Victoria. 738-2036
This group acts as a referral service, provides counselling and has a legal aidclinic every Thursday evening.

St. Columba Anti-Poverty
932-5916
Provides referral services, a working-out program, rent-a-hand and a group for mothers. They also publish a newspaper.

Church of the Ascension
5434 Park Ave. 277-0043
Provides support to refugees.

Centre des Femmes de Montreal
3585 St-Urbain. 842-1066
Provides services for women in need.

Chez Doris
1945 de Maisonneuve W. 937-2341
A day centre open 7 days a week (M-Th 10h to 16h, 10h to 13h30, Sat. and Sun. 10h to 15h) it provides services to women andchildren in need. They serve a breakfast every morning from 10h to 10h30. and lunch from 12h to 12h30. The first meal is free; following visits, clients exchange meals for light housework. They operate a clothing boutique on Tuesdays and Thurdays.

Listings compiled by Kate Kung & Renato Sogueco

Comments

Speak your mind submit a comment to the Link

Pride Below the Poverty Line

by Anita DeMeo

As I walk from the street into the yard, I pass a couple of men standing around talking. Our eyes meet, but I immediately lower my head and look to the ground. I am, of course, embarrassed to be here.

I go down the stairs to the automatic number machine, take my ticket and quickly find an empty seat on one of the benches along the wall. I'm now familiar with the routine. I've been coming to this place every month since I moved to Montreal in June.

I look around at some of the other people here today. There's an old man in the corner mumbling to himself, and a sullen looking teenage girl with a baby in her arms. Next to me is a young couple having a loud argument, interspersed with passionate kissing. Across the room is a bearded man in his twenties, dirty and disoriented, carrying a pack sack, a plastic grocery bag filled with clothes, and a cardboard box. Is this the sum of his worldly possessions, I wonder? And there's that woman again with the two young children. She's here everytime I am.

You see this scene is the N.D.G. food bank on Old Orchard St., and I, along with this room-full of people, am waiting to get my bags of groceries that I so desperately need. As I wait for my number to be called, I think of the incredible contrasts in my life. Twenty minutes ago I was sitting in a university French class, with intelligent, goal-oriented people. Now I'm in a church basement, with society's "outcasts", people whose dreams have mostly been lost, if ever they even had any.

Why do I need to be here, seeking free food distribution, a humiliating and degrading experience. I come out of necessity. My children went to school again today with only a couple of muffins in their lunch. We have no meat or milk, no bread or fruit - and the family allowance cheques aren't due until next week. This is nothing new for us. I've been on welfare for ten years. And my situation is not unique. The amount of money granted by the social services is ridiculously unrealistic with present economic needs. People are given barely enough to provide even the fundamentals of food, shelter and clothing. If this didn't ring true, why are the food banks and shelters for the homeless so full?

I don't want to elaborate on the reasons people are on welfare. These are as varied and diverse as the number of those involved. But I feel more fortunate than most. I am currently enrolled at Concordia University on a special program for single mothers. For three semesters, I get my tuition, books and daycare services paid for. And for the first time in years, I can actually begin to visualize a future devoid of some of the frustrating anguish that poverty brings.

But all is not perfect. I am still on a welfare budget. I have to front the money for my books first, than get reimbursed. I have three children in school, all who need book fees, supplies and bus passes (no reimbursement for them). My oldest son still doesn't have all his required books - and neither do I! I didn't originally intend to write this as a critique on the inadequacies of income security benefits. But I find that the government agencies are very short-sighted and rigid, and often fail to deal with issues from a real human perspective. How can I be proficient in my studies and produce the quality of work I know I need to succeed if I have to worry excessively about feeding my family?

I look around here at the university and I see hundreds of students, some so obviously filled with noble ideals and aspirations. I can't help but wonder, though, how many of these will truly touch the core of the human experience. Will they be sensitive and open-minded, able to shed the preconceived prejudices that work to keep some of us always on the "down-and- out".

Unless things turn around and the complex needs of the poor are squarely dealt with, we will be faced with an immense social breakdown with disastrous consequences. Unless the collective consciousness is raised to a level of quality and equality for everyone, people like myself, my children, and those I sat with today at the food bank, will have no place in society to hold our heads up high.

Young people and single parents suffer most after welfare cutbacks

Hard times on t

"The government has not created real jobs and does not intend to. We are not lazy or lacking incentive; we are underemployed and need real jobs at decent wages."
-taken from a pamphlet published by The Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients

by Michael Orsini

It's Thanksgiving Day, but Janice isn't giving thanks.

"It's just another day - another 24 hours," said Janice, who lives with another welfare recipient. "We're having two sausages each, but turkey's out of the question. We can't afford it."

The 44-year-old was one of thousands of welfare recipients across Quebec who had their monthly cheques slashed Aug. 1 as part of the provincial government's welfare reform law, Bill 37.

More than 82,000 recipients, mainly young people and single-parents, faced cuts of up to $100 when the second phase of the welfare overhaul took effect last summer. Anyone collecting welfare before Aug. 1, 1989 was exempt from the reforms until this summer.

That figure includes more than one-quarter of the 324,388 welfare households in Quebec, an estimated 570,000 people. The provincial government used this sharp increase in the number of welfare recipients in Quebec to justify the cuts. According to government figures, that number jumped in 1988 to 594,016 from 435,045 in 1976.

To get more money under the new system, a recipient must qualify for the financial support program. A cheque for a single adult accepted into this program increased in August to $585 from $507.

But it isn't that simple. To be eligible, a recipient must be deemed mentally or physically unable to work for at least a year with a medical certificate to prove it.

Janice didn't pass the test. A doctor hired by the government rejected her application last month to receive financial support. She has asked the department to review her request, but hasn't received an answer yet. If that fails, she'll have to appeal in court.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL THIBAULT

Under the new welfare reforms, many recipients have a tough time balancing their slashed cheques.

The former social worker suffers from a string of medical problems, including diabetes, asthma, and bronchitis.

She takes about 16 pills a day to relieve her various symptoms, but that makes her unable to function. Without the medication, Janice said she would be a pack of nerves.

Although she also has psychological troubles, Janice said the biggest obstacle preventing her from getting a decent job is her memory loss.

"I don't like sitting on my butt doing nothing," she said. "I would love to go back to work but I can't. I literally can't remember what's going on. My employer would have to explain something to me every two or three minutes."

Normand was one of the lucky ones. He didn't have to undergo government scrutiny. He tested HIV positive two years ago, making him automatically eligible for financial support. But he said $585 a month is barely enough to live on.

After paying his $380 rent and a monthly $161 electricity bill accrued over a few years, Normand is left with about $40 to purchase food and other necessities.

"I have two children who I can't see because I can't afford to fly them here (from the Maritimes)," he said.

The $2.2 billion reform package, which was introduced in May 1989 by Manpower and Income Security Minister André Bourbeau, contains three programs: work and employment incentives, parental wage assistance and the aforementioned financial support.

The amount of benefits now paid out to recipients depends on their availability for work or participation in training programs, whether they share a home with someone else on welfare, and in some cases, their parents' income.

Recipients living in what was considered a shared dwelling - a house or apartment that an adult or a family shares with others - faced an immediate $89 cut to their cheques.

Janice also suffered this cut because she is sharing an apartment. She now receives $470 a month, $65 less than before. After covering this month's rent and her only luxury, Cable TV, Janice was left with nothing.

"I don't even know how I'm going to feed my three dogs," she said. "We have nothing."

Under the work and employment incentives program, benefits are based on the category recipients are lumped into: available, unavailable, participant, or non-participant.

For example, single adults who received $517 a month under the old system - which dropped automatically to $504 Aug. 1 - had their cheques slashed to $441 if they declared themselves non-participants in a work or study program.

Cheques for single parents who fell into this category dropped in August to $650 from $695.

However, agreeing to participate in one of the incentive programs only entitles welfare recipients to an extra $40 on their monthly cheques. Those who do sign up for the program must put in 80 hours of work each month in order to receive the additional money. That's roughly 50 cents an hour.

"Hunger boom" hits Montréal

by Barry Walsh

Montreal's food banks are experiencing tough times — but the situation is rougher for those who depend on them.

And with winter on the way, things will only get worse.

The implementation of Bill 37, Quebec's controversial welfare reform law, will see as much as $100 slashed from the monthly cheques of more than 82,000 provincial welfare recipients.

With less money to spend on food, more recipients will turn to the food banks for help.

Karen Takacs, coordinator of the NDG Food Depot, said many people just don't understand what it's like to live on welfare.

"Under the new reforms, a single adult maybe getting just over $500 a month. After you pay for rent and cover the other bills, there's not a lot to go around," Takacs.said. "People are coming (to us) because they have to."

A recent survey conducted by Le Garde Manger Pour Tous, the largest food distributor in southwest Montreal, indicated that food depots from across the city have had dramatic increases in demand over the past two years. Many, like the NDG Depot, have reported increases of up to 300%.

After Bill 37 came into effect Aug. 1, many Montreal food banks held fundraising events in order to counter a possible "hunger boom."

Many of the dire predictions of life after Bill 37 are just beginning to come true, Takacs.said.

"With the colder weather coming, it'll get a lot worse. People will have to worry about heating their places as well as finding something to eat."

he welfare line

Refusing a job offered by one of the 127 welfare offices across Quebec now brings a $100 cut to a recipient's cheque. A subsequent refusal within a 12-month period brings another $100 cut.

The Income Security Minister defended the program last spring in the National Assembly, saying it would simply redistribute money for social assistance, giving less to people able but unwilling to work, and more to those medically or psychologically unfit to work.

A press kit given to journalists at a news conference this summer to officially launch PAIE, a job re-entry program for welfare recipients, summed up attitudes towards government handouts: "The surest way to kill a man is to pay him not to work," it read, quoting late Québecois folksinger Felix Leclerc.

"I don't like sitting on my butt doing nothing. I would love to go to work but I literally can't remember what's going on." -a welfare recipient who suffers memory loss

In an interview this summer, Bourbeau insisted he never meant to punish people on welfare, adding that the goal was to give recipients much needed job skills.

"If they do not want to improve their job skills, they can't expect society to make miracles for them. Welfare can only be temporary if you're able-bodied."

But welfare-rights advocates charge that these work programs have only created pools of cheap labor. Although close to 200,000 people are eligible for job-training programs, only 63,000 placements are available, they argue.

Those exempted from the work or study programs include:

- Women between their 20th week of pregnancy and the fifth week following delivery.
- Adults 55 years old and over.
- Parents with a dependent preschool child.
- Parents with a child who is mentally or physically disabled.
- Anyone with a medical certificate attesting to their poor physical or mental state.

As for his critics, Bourbeau said they "would probably prefer that we leave (the welfare recipients) rotting at home, with no self-confidence. Some people are even scared to death to knock on the door (for a job)."

Although recipients are paid more under the Programme d'Aide a l'Intégration en Emploi and get off the welfare rolls, welfare-rights activists still argue PAIE is no better than the other work programs because it instils false hope in the participant.

Under PAIE, the province subsidizes businesses, community organizations and municipalities that promise to hire recipients full time at minimun wage for six months. However, the employer is free to fire the worker after the required time.

"It's like the government wants them (welfare recipients) to do something, but they don't want them to do well," said Karen Gracie, who works at Lasalle Welfare Rights. "It's scab labor."

But welfare advocates weren't the only ones to rail against the new reforms.

The union representing the government's 2,600 welfare agents denounced the reform as unfair, fearing the cuts would trigger violence at welfare offices across Quebec.

A resource person at the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients - an umbrella organization of anglophone anti-poverty groups - said society is going to pay for the government's refusal to deal with poverty.

"I think this is eventually going to lead to violence," said David Cassidy, comparing the government's treatment of the poor to that of the Mohawks this summer. "It's just like a pressure cooker. It's going to build."

In a 1987 report, the National Council of Welfare urged that "provinces eliminate the disparities in the rates of assistance on the basis of employability and age."

Although Bill 37 brought recipients under 30 - previously the lowest paid under the system - at parity with those over 30 for the first time, rates of assistance are mainly determined by a recipient's employability.

The citizens' advisory body to the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare also recommended that welfare offices be required to publicly display any new policy changes affecting recipients.

Welfare rights groups have complained that welfare agents are not obliged to explain the new law to recipients.

Frank McGilly, a Social Work professor at McGill, said getting people back into the workforce is a step in the right direction, but he warned that the new scheme is too complicated for anyone to understand.

"If somebody had set out to make a more complex set of rules, they couldn't have done a better job," McGilly said. "This could become a ball of wax in the hands of the ministry."

Cassidy agreed.

"People (welfare recipients) don't know what they're entitled to," he said, referring to the 144 pay scales now used to calculate benefits. "They just don't know what's going on."

Barbara Kemp, a Ville Marie Social Services worker offers courses in welfare-training for anti-poverty groups. She called Bill 37 "mind-boggling" at best. It's difficult for recipients to understand the law if those empowered to explain it to them are confused, she added.

However, McGilly reserved most of his criticism for an aspect of the reform requiring parents to support financially their dependent children.

"It's probably for the good of society that a son isn't living with his parents," he said. "You're forcing people to tighten bonds that they'd just as soon forget about."

A coalition spearheaded by the Front Commun des Personnes Assistées Sociales du Quebec mounted a symbolic 37-day campaign against Bill 37 that began Aug. 20 and ends with a caravan of solidarity in Quebec City Oct. 18.

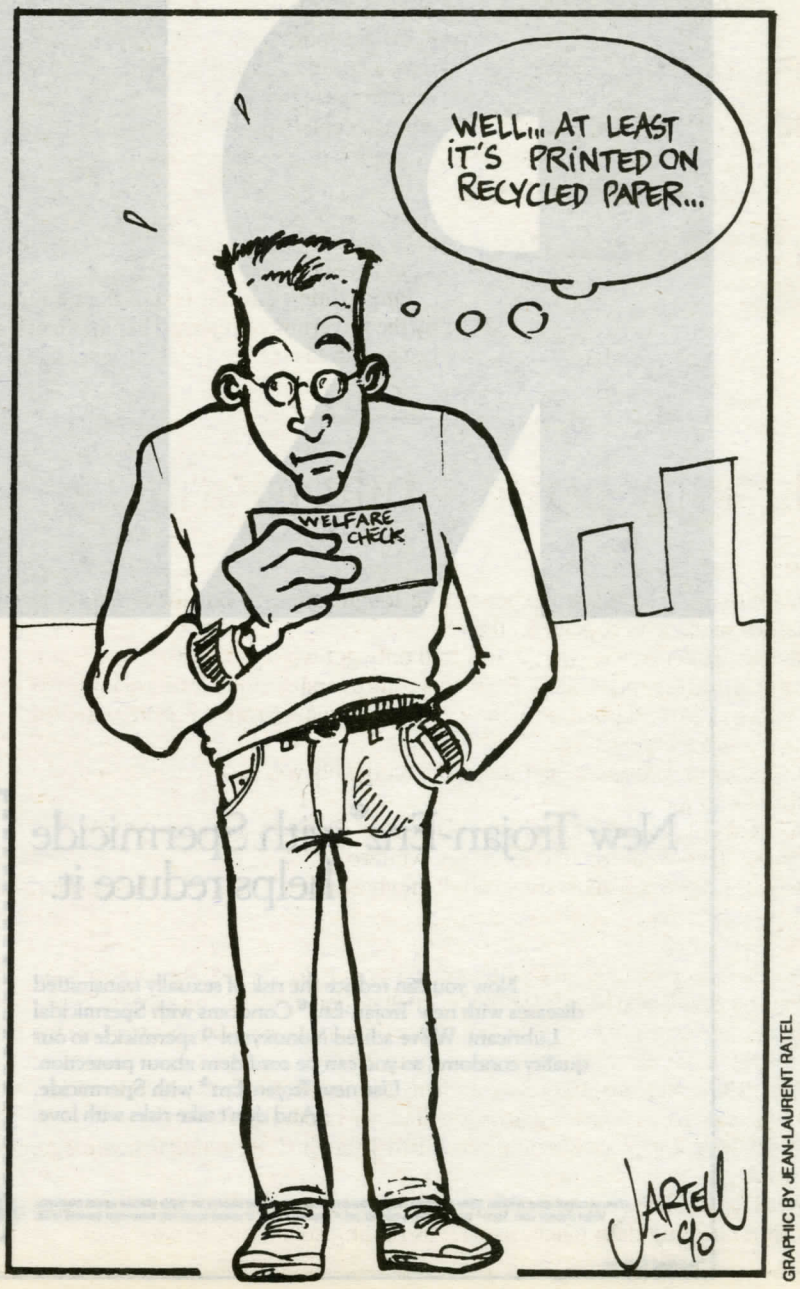
Some of the coalition's demands include:

- making participation in work or study programs voluntary, with higher payouts to participants.
- abolishing the parental contribution condition.
- abolishing the $89 cut to recipients living in a shared dwelling.

The coalition also asked recipients to clog the system by filing revision requests, but Cassidy said that isn't the solution.

"We need a new welfare law. We've gone backwards 20 years. We've lost the concept of humanity, of dignity."

Note: Some of the welfare recipients interviewed for this article asked that their last names not be published.



GRAPHIC BY JEAN-LAURENT RATEL

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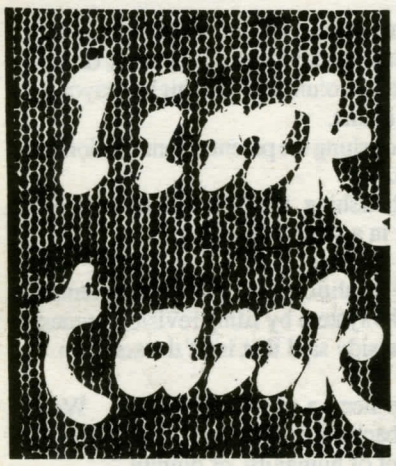

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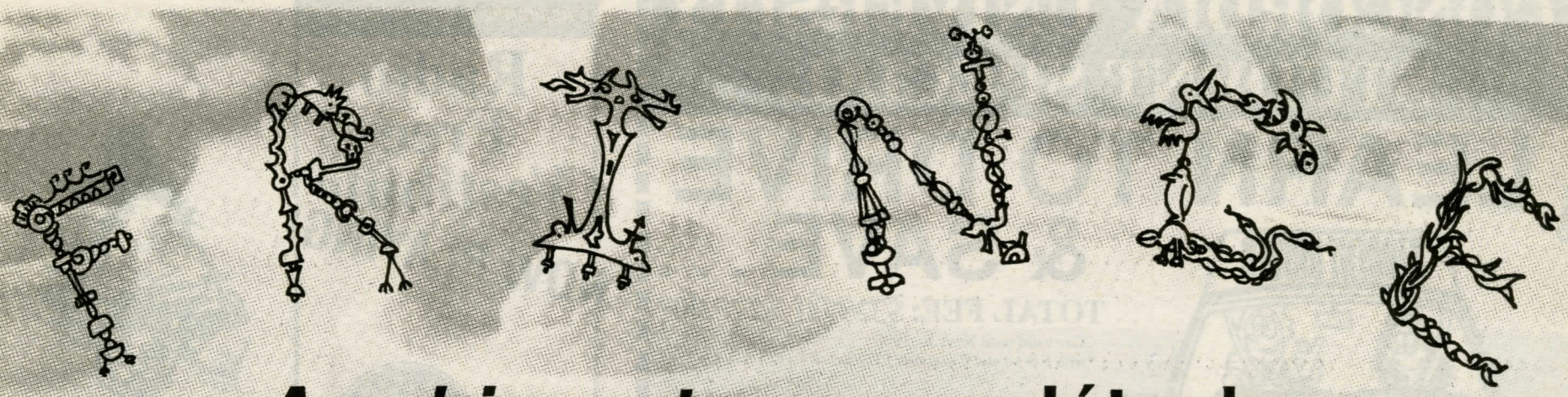

Au chic resto pop se détache

par Serge Noël

Au chic resto pop c'est d'abord un lieu. Puis un film. C'est le restaurant qu'un groupe d'inpécuniers débrouillards ouvrent dans l'est de la ville, pour se donner de l'emploi, et pour offrir un service à la communauté. Vous direz, des restaurants... Mais attention, là on offre un repas complet pour $1.00: soupe, plat principal équilibré, jus, dessert, café, thé, ou verre de lait. C'est un rêve, une fiction vous dites; et pourtant non, ce film est un documentaire.

Plus encore, ce chic resto n'est même pas un anachronisme fossile ayant vu le jour sous les hospices du défunt état providence; ces gens jouent l'engagement social selon les règles du capitalisme. Ils font la ceuillette d'aliments en parfait état, mais qui, pour d'étranges raisons, sont jetés par les gros entrepos de nos super-marchés.

Ce petit miracle valait bien un documentaire un peu spécial, et c'est ce qu'à voulu faire Tahani Rached, la réalisatrice. Aux scènes plus réalistes, alternent des chansons interprétées par les gens du resto - avec l'aide du célèbre Cassonade, elles ont été prises en direct, en lieux réels. On imagine aisément le poli rigolo de la chose.

La caméra est attentive, sa technique s'inscrivant dans la technique du bon documentaire québécois. Toutefois le film se détache de cette tradition dans le regard porté, si ce n'est dans la forme - que l'on pense à The things I cannot change - le film, en fait, pourrait s'appeler "les choses que je peux changer."

Il ne s'agit pas, comme à l'époque, de se sensibiliser aux conditions de vie de pauvres "exemplaires," mais bien de promouvoir une image positive chez ceux qui sont concernés par le documentaire. Et donc, alors que la tradition appellait la prise en charge étatique, ici, on suscite l'esprit d'initiative.

À un certain moment dans le film, un homme nous parle de son enfance. Sa maison a été détruite pour faire place à une route. Mais la route n'a jamais été construite. Nous sommes sur le terrain vague. Il nous fait visiter la maison. Sa mémoire est vivide.

Le film devient alors le contraste entre l'aveuglement et l'imagination sensible. Aveuglement social, corporatif, étatique, et imagination individuelle. Et ce qui est bien, c'est que dans ce film, c'est l'imagination qui gagne.

C h e a p s t u f f

Shrinking - by The Blue Knight Theater Company, " a story of interdependance, a drama of power and politics, the struggles, the selfishness. From Oct. 10-14, 8pm tickets are $5.50. For reservations call 843-7738.

While knocking back a few beer, check out paintings by Belgian artist ***Marc De Meyer***, till Oct. 31, at Bar La Cervoise, 4457 boul. St- Laurent. Free.

"Fabric of Life"- Portraits by Jeannie Kamins and ceramics by Susan Meindl. On till Oct. 27, Tues.- Fri. 10am -6pm, Sat. 10 am - 5pm, at Centre des Arts Visuels till Oct. 27. Free.

Adventures in Song - an evening with Barbara Lewis, singer. With Laurie Milkman and Michelle Hamlin. Tonight at the Concordia Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. Free.

Betrayal - by Harold Pinter will be presented by Tuesday Night Café Theatre at McGill. It runs till Sat. Oct. 13 at the Morrice Hall 3484 McTavish. Tickets are $4 for students, $6 for the general public. Show starts at 8pm.

A video presentation by Yugoslavian artists ***Sanja Ivekovic*** and ***Dalibor Martinis***, Fri. Oct. 12, 8pm, at Oboro, 3981 boul. St-Laurent. Free.

Caught in the Act - improv troupe rumoured to be the best in Montreal, tonight at Rockaway Café, 3745 boul. St-Laurent.

Petite Amérique - one of 9 films and videos from ZDF, Alternative Television from Germany, tonight at 8pm at the Goethe Institute, 418 Sherbrooke E. Admission is $2.

"Portraits and Figures"-An exhibition of portraits and figures by Eliza Griffiths & Julia Waks at the Concordia Women's Centre 'Art Space', 2020 Mackay P-03. Free.

Entr'ouverture- Drawings and photographs by Barbara Claus, using "enlarged photographic details and pure pigment drawings in her work to explore notions of time, irreversibility and silence " Vernissage: Sat. Oct. 13, 3pm at Oboro, 3981 boul. St-Laurent. The show runs till Nov. 11. Free.

Paintings by ***Judith Berry*** and ***Suzanne Grisé*** - showing at Galerie Clark, 1591 Clark, 2nd Floor. Thurs. - Sun., 12pm - 6pm, until Oct. 14. Free.

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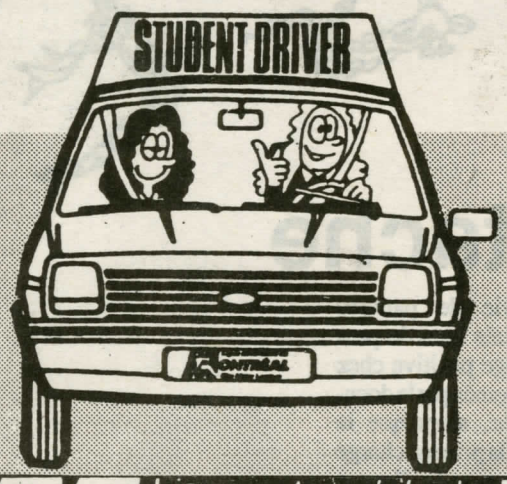

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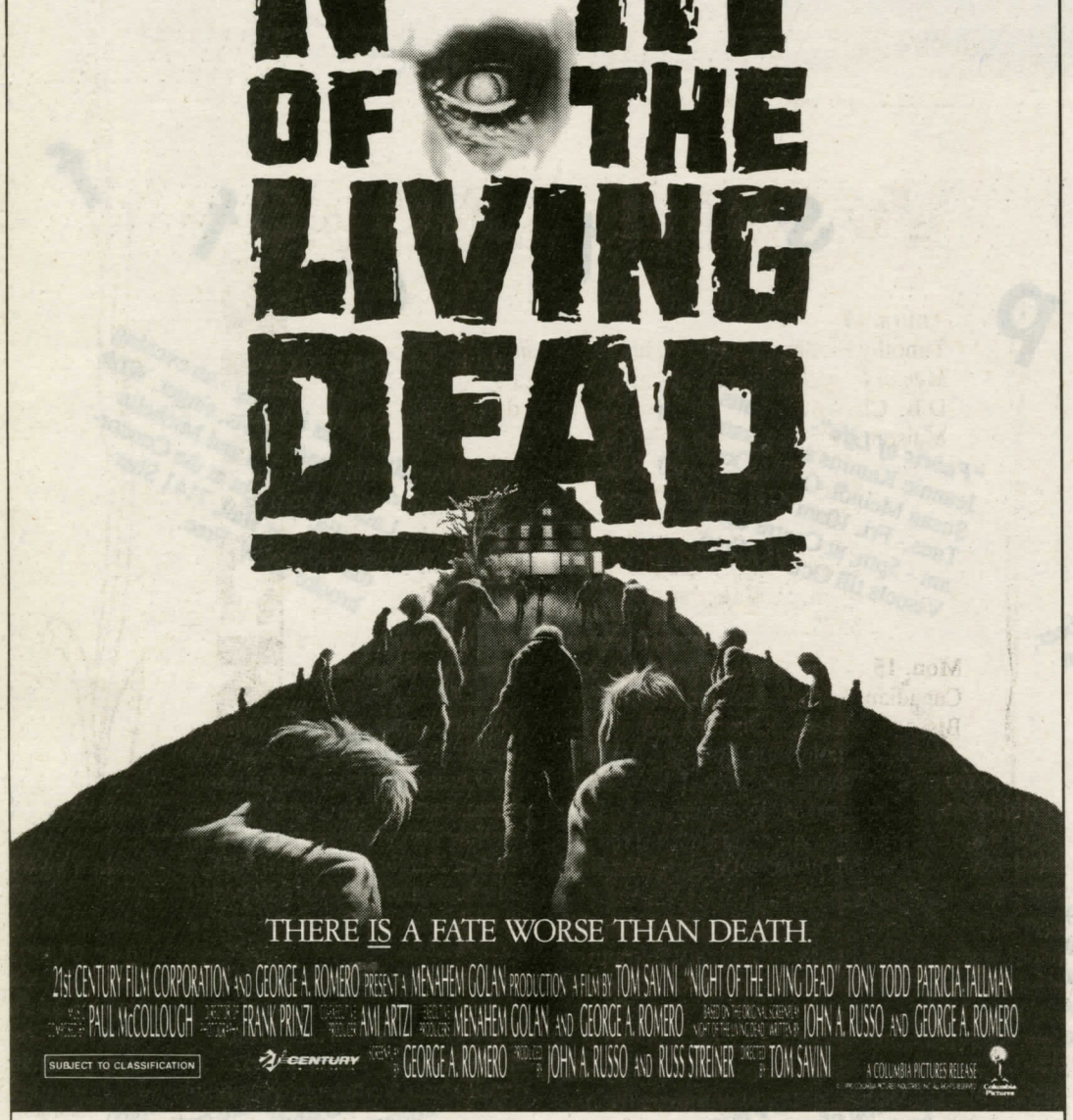

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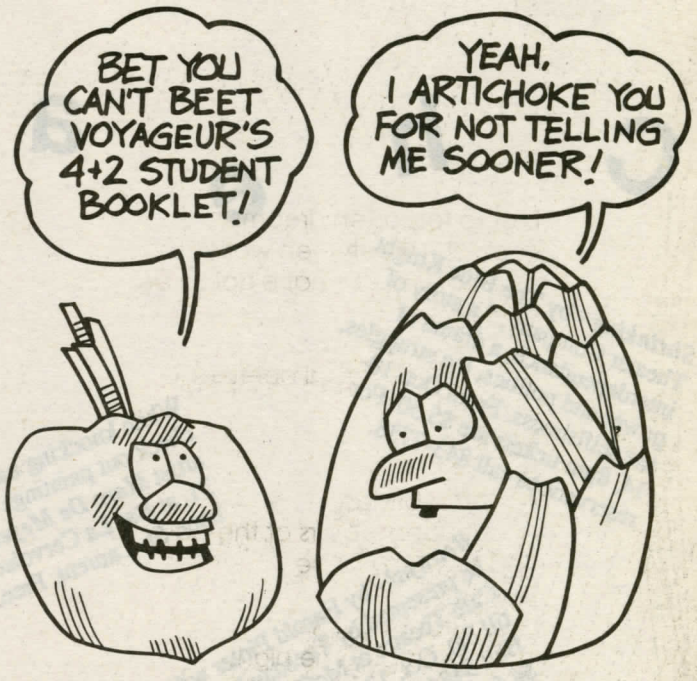

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Literary Links

People's Writers Group

Every wednesday night the members of the People's Writers Group meet to discuss stories and to find encouragement and a forum to express themselves through writing.

The People's Writers Group is an informal group which has been in existence for almost a year to criticize and encourage member's writing.

Its membership includes all levels of writing skills and all kinds of writings, including poetry, prose, theater, etc.

Generally speaking, the group is designed to fill in the gap in the existing literary set-up, which the group claims is designed for middle class people. The P.W.G. wants to provide a receptive forum for those themes and manners of expression that are ordinarily ignored by the established literary institutions, and the primary goal of the P.W.G. is to encourage poor and working class people to write.

New members are always welcome. The P.W.G. is affiliated with the N.D.G. Anti-Poverty Group and meets Wednesdays at 7.00 pm at 6715 Sherbrooke Street West, Apt. 17

For information, call: N.D.G. Anti-Poverty Group, Tel: 489-3548

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WRITER'S BLOCK

Thurs. 11
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Sun. 14
Catherine Diamond reviews *The Five Seasons* by A.B. Yehoshuan at Book Lover's Forum. 2pm, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. W. 5$. Info: 937-3575.

Mon. 15
Canadian Cultural Programmes presents Neil Bissoondath, author of the new short-story collection *On the Eve of Uncertain Tomorrows*. 1:30pm, Complexe Guy Favreau, 200 René Lévesque WW. FREE. Info: 937-7937.

Mon. 15
Book Launching! Launch of Keith Harrison's novel *Eyemouth*. Double Hook Bookstore, 1235a Greene Ave., Westmount. 6—8pm. Info: 932-5093.

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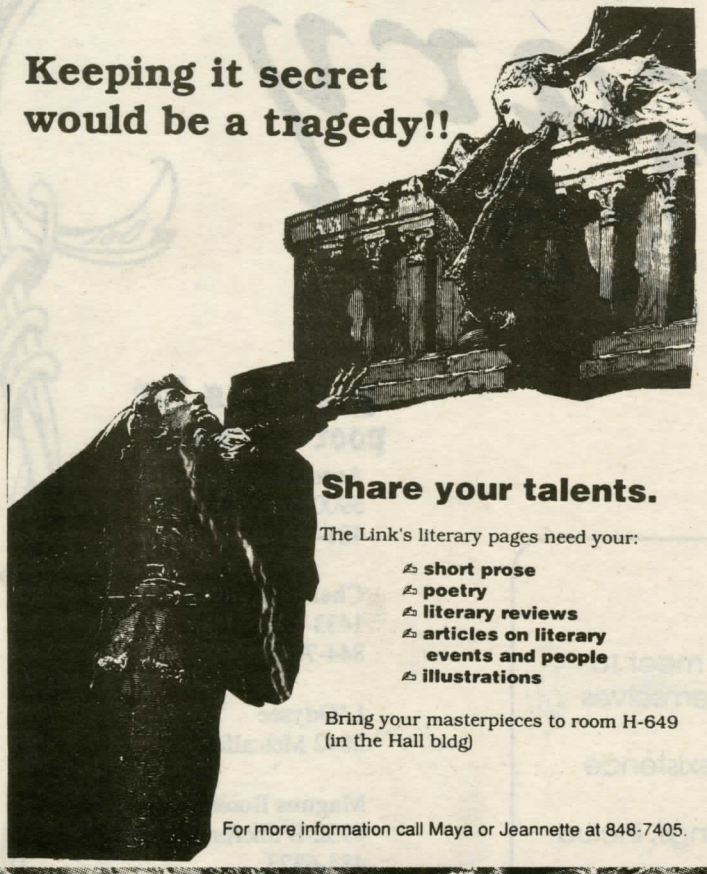

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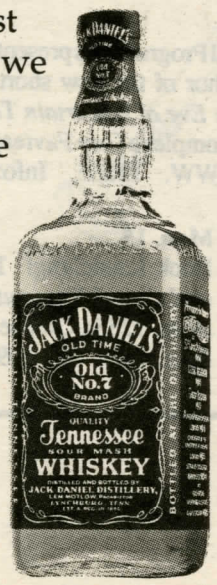

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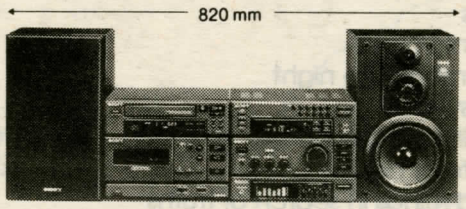

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Sports*beat*

Stingers lose, fall to third place

by Franco D'Orazio

The Stingers evened their record at 2-2 and reduced their chances of getting homefield advantage in the playoffs by beating themselves in a 19-15 loss to the Bishop's University Gaiters on Saturday.

The Gaiters scored all their points in the first 26 minutes of the game, but they could have easily ran the score to a humiliating 33-0 by capitalizing on some early miscues committed by the home team.

Head coach Pat Sheahan's squad let the Gaiters block Stinger John Hillhouse's first three punts, but they only converted one blocked punt into a touchdown thanks to the heroics of Concordia's Alvaro Martinez; he tackled the Gaiter who recovered the errant ball deep in Stinger territory on two ocassions.

"It's something that hasn't happened all year," said Hillhouse." Either I was too slow or someone missed an assignment. It's something we'll have to fix."

The Stingers also amassed 102 yards in penalties, including a foolish play by defensive end David Henry.

Five minutes into the fourth quarter, with the Gaiters looking at second down and nine yards to go on their own 36-yard line, Henry sacked Bishop's quarterback Silvio Martel for a loss. Instead of sending in their punting squad, the Gaiters received an automatic first down because Henry was called for spearing Martel *after* he had been sacked.

Bishop's University combined a 37-yard field goal by Grag Hiscox and a two-point safety to take a 5-0 lead early in the game.

They scored their first touchdown at 14:53 of the first quarter with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Joseph from Martel. Hiscox's convert made the score 12-0. Twenty four seconds later, Bishop's Sandy Campbell scooped up one of Hillhouse's blocked punts and ran with it 25 yards for the Gaiters' only other major of the game.

The Stingers got onto the scoreboard when quarterback Ron Aboud hit Steve Hollands with a 16-vard touchdown pass with two seconds remaining in the half. They missed on their two-point convert and headed into the locker room down 19-6.

But the Stingers bounced back into the game at the beginning of the second half, thanks to whatever profanity Sheahan used to highlight his locker room peptalk. The Stingers shut out the Bishop's squad the entire second half while they tried to climb out of the hole they had dug themselves into.

Running back J.F.Heroux opened the scoring at 11:08 of the third quarter with a 14-yard run, which capped a sixty-yard drive. Kicker Paul Geary made good on his convert attempt.

The score: 19-13.

The momentum had undoubtedly shifted to the Stingers' bench. On the proceeding kickoff, Geary kicked the football 70 yards over the Gaiter receivers and through the endzone for another single point. But whatever enthusiasm Sheahan had instilled into his charges had soon been extinguished in the fourth quarter by a questionable call by veteran official Bernie Young.

The Stingers looked tough but it just wasn't enough against the Gaitors last Saturday at Loyola.

PHOTO BY DINO MASTROPAOLO

On their second to last possesion of the game the Stingers were sitting on Bishops' 50-yard line. Aboud tossed a forward pass to Hollands which was good for a fifteen yard pick up. But Young ruled the Stingers had an extra player on the field. The illegal man was backup quarterback Francois Trudel, who was relaying the signals to Aboud.

Trudel, who claims to have been no more than four feet from the sideline at the time of the play, said the officials usually give him a warning whenever he steps over the sideline;

"But that time they didn't. They The officiating was very bad, mostly in the second half."

But Sheahan was a little more generous. "You have to play through them (the officiating.) The calls can hurt you or they can help you."

The Stingers will host the McGill Redman in the fourth annual Shrine Bowl this Saturday. It will be their last home game of the season and a game Sheahan says the Stingers can't afford to loose.

With three games left the home team will have their work cut out for them. They're tied with Queen's University in third place behind Bishop's University which ran their unbeaten string to four and the University of Ottawa (3-1).

Perhaps the biggest blow of all to the squad is the injury suffered by all-star running back J.F. Heroux. He sustained a season ending shoulder seperation with 1:48 left to play in the game.

In other action, the McGill Redmen fell to the Ottawa Gee Gee's on Friday night in Ottawa and Queen'skicked the stuffings out of the hapless Carleton Ravens on Saturday, downing them by a 36-6 final score.

Stingers defeat Champlain College in women's rugby

by Ron Rogers

What's the best team at Concordia that no one knows about? Maybe, just maybe, it's the women's rugby team.

After sweeping past a highly-rated McGill squad last weekend, the Stingers marched to Champlain College on Sunday and rolled to an impressive 28-0 victory.

Scoring was spread throughout the team. Josee Lacasse led the way for Concordia with two tries, while Christine Cogan, Micheline Green, Manon Croteau and Brenda Haggerty each scored a single try. Green also kicked two converts for the Stingers. For Haggerty, it was her first score for Concordia.

As usual, playing conditions were less then wonderful on Sunday, with a solid rain saturating the field and making smooth play difficult.

"It was raining all day and the field was muddy, so the play wasn't all that exciting," said team spokeswoman Sonya Harnisch, one of the Stingers on-field leaders.

Harnisch also said that the large margin of victory was to be expected, since CEGEP's are so much younger and inexperienced.

"Colleges tend not to be as strong as universities," said Harnisch, "except for maybe John Abbott."

At McGill on Thursday the Stingers won by default against the Bishop's Gaiters. It was to be the Stingers second contest with the Gaiters, the first resulted in a 12-0 Stinger victory.

As Harnisch pointed out, "We were missing one or two key players last time we played Bishops, and we beat them."

Concordia's next game takes place October 14, at McGill against John Abbott, at 3 P.M.

New hockey season for Stingers

by Ron Rogers

It's not easy to replace a symbol. For over twenty years Paul Arsenault was the symbol of Concordia hockey, winning almost 600 games and 16 conference championships.

But the times-are-a-changing at Concordia, and this past weekend was the start of the changing times, with new head coach Yves Beaucage leading the team into a tournament at the University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres.

Beaucage, considered one of the top young minds in university hockey, was an assistant at McGill for three years before joining Arsenault as an assistant in 1988. Now that Arsenault has departed, Beaucage faces the task of carrying on the rich hockey tradition Arsenault established at Concordia.

Beaucage took his first step on that route on Friday at the U.Q.T.R. invitational tournament by directing the Stingers in a win over their crosstown rivals from McGill, 8-1.

Marco Morin led the way for Concordia with 3 goals, while Bobby Desjardins stood out in goal, stopping 31 shots.

On Saturday (October 6) Concordia faced the host U.Q.T.R. Patriotes, one of the perennial powers in Canadian university hockey, emerging on the wrong end of a 5-1 decision. Last year's rookie of the year, Steve Sonowski picked up the lone marker for Concordia. Five different scorers replied for the Patriotes; Benoit Gosselin,

continued on page 19

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Sportsbeat

Stingers tie McGill Redmen 1-1

by Francois Amyot

Under a constant driving rain, the men's teams from McGill and Concordia played an exciting soccer match which ended in a 1-1 tie. TheMcGill Redmen, a faster and more skillfull team probably deserved a better outcome. But it was the goal of Redman Rick Taweel, with two minutes left, that kept the Stingers from gaining their second victory of the season.

The miserable weather and a wet field did not affect the play. The style was wide open, even if the Stingers were trying to protect a 1-0 lead for 70 minutes.

Before the game, the Stingers' coach Vladimir Pavlicik said that the weather would disturb players' skills.

"Heart will win today," he said.

The Stingers took few risks all afternoon. But in the first half, they initiated counter attacks, after waiting out their opponents. It resulted in some scoring chances and they finally broke through at the 20th minute mark.

The goal was the result of a magnificient passing play, initiated by defenceman Ross Smith. He drove the ball from his zone into Redmen territory, and two crosses later, Paulo Schiavoni finished it up with a beautiful header.

The coaches opted for a conservative strategy in the second half which wasn't unanimous among the players.

"We should have played the way we did in the first half. But It's tough to say after the game if the strategy was good or not,"said rookie forward Russell Borrows. "The coaches know we are not in great shape. It explained their decision."

Pavlicik said the team still kept pressuring after the 1-0 lead, although that was the same tactic used at their last losing game. "In this hard physical game, we don't have the depths of the Redmen and they had the momentum at the end," saidMr Plavicik, happy with the effort but disappointed of the players' fitness.

"We deserved what we got, but we are disappointed of not getting the two points," said defenceman Nick Smeros who received a yellow card in the game.

The Redmen pressed continuously in the first half, but missed all their opportunities. Stinger goalie Patrick Schmidt robbed them on several occasions. First, a spectacular dive stopped a header from Jono Drysdale.

Later, he executed the most spectacular play of soccer. He blocked a penalty shot, which could have been the "TSN" turning point. He atoned for his own mistake as he rolled in the McGill forwards' legs. The referee never hesitated to give the penalty kick.

"The call was good by the referee," he said. "I made the save because I know the kicker and where he would shoot."

PHOTO BY EDMUND WONG

Soccer can be treacherous, especially when the other team will do almost anything to trip you up.

The second half was all McGill's, but Concordia appeared to have the victory wrapped up. After many unfortunate tries, Rick Taweel scored from fifty feet out with two minutes remaining to secure the tie for McGill. It looked like a harmless shot, but it ended up in the left top corner. Schmidt wasn't ready and reacted too late.

"They waited for us all game and it almost worked out. I think we are more technical and certainly more experienced than the Stingers. We are happy to be 3-0-1 after four road games," McGill coach Claudio Sandrn said. McGill, number four in the nation, is the team to beat in the Quebec division.

On the women's side, they had another goal festival Sunday afternoon. The Stingers beat Chicoutimi 10-0. Annie Caron took a step further towards the scoring title. She scored a hat trick. Heidi Jones and Shana Hogan added a pair each in this blow-out.

The real test will come next weekend for the women. On Friday night, they will visit the McGill Martlets, in what will be a battle for top spot in the league. It will be the first of two meetings between the teams, the next coming the following Friday October 19 at 4 P.M. at the Loyola field.

"They are hard, aggressive and disciplined. They play an open style in which we will try to exploit," coach Lyonel Joseph said. "They send many people on the offense."

Sunday afternoon, they will host Sherbrooke.

"We should beat this team again. They are more physical and they like contact," Joseph added. "We will tell the players their roles and the weaknesses of our opponents. But we must protect our own (weaknesses) too."

Next weekend will also be important for the men's squad. They will travel to Bishop's and Trois-Rivieres. To keep their third place position, they must, at the very least, return with a victory.

Hockey Tournamentat UQTR

continued from page 17

Robert Paige, Stephan Golean, Serge Breton and Pierre Bertrand.

These two teams will meet on February 8 for the Corey Cup, at the Forum, where Concordia defeated McGill by a 5-2 count last year to reclaim hockey supremacy in the city.

Concordia's final tournament game on Sunday (October 7) saw them lose a tough 4-3 decision to Ottawa, with the Gee-Gees scoring the game winner in the final minute. Richard Ayotte, Pat Ryan and Al "Skip" Langton scored for the Stingers.

Although the Stingers did drop two of three decisions this past weekend, should be emphasized that this tournament was used as a proving ground for the team, a more competitive extension of their brief two-week training camp.

As Beaucage noted, this tournament was used to basically see who can play and who can't. With a more solidified lineup, we can expect greater consistency from the Stingers in the future, particularly this weekend, when they journey south of the border to face some American competition.

The team will be in Lowell, Massachusetts on Friday and Providence on Saturday to meet some U.S. style university hockey. Concordia's first home game takes place on October 25, against the Patriotes.

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